CLAIMS

What is claimed is:

- 1. A method of administration of gene delivery and gene expression in a patient having or at risk of having a cellular accumulation or a chronic inflammatory disease wherein the disease has an etiology associated with a defective apoptosis-regulating gene or polypeptide, the method comprising administering to the patient a therapeutically effective amount of a composition which modulates the expression of the apoptosis-regulating gene or polypeptide in an apoptosis defective cell such that the disease is ameliorated.
 - 2. The method of claim 1, wherein the cellular accumulation is in a joint.
 - 3. The method of claim 1, wherein the modulation is enhancing apoptosis.
- 4. The method of claim 3, wherein the apoptosis enhancing effect is on fibroblast-like synovial cells.
- 5. The method of claim 1, wherein the disease is selected from the group consisting of an autoimmune disease, rheumatoid arthritis, and a periodontal disease.
- 6. The method of claim 1, wherein the apoptosis gene or polypeptide is selected from the group consisting of p53, ICE, bax, p21waf, and ras.
- 7. The method of claim 1, wherein the composition is an apoptosis polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid.
- 8. The method of claim 7, wherein the apoptosis polypeptide-encoding nucleic acid is present in an expressible genetic construct.
- 9. The method of claim 8, wherein the expressible genetic construct is a viral vector.

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- 10. The method of claim 9, wherein the viral vector is a DNA vector.
- 11. The method of claim 10, wherein the DNA vector is an adenovirus vector.